



CAREER SPIKE

Volleyball player Ryan Doherty worked an odd job or six on his way to going pro **8-9**



Wednesday
AUGUST 26, 2015

★ FREE ★
A Chicago Tribune publication

Ryan Doherty (right)
at an AVP beach
volleyball game

David Alan Grier's next comedic venture **14**

Brown Bag Seafood Co. is quite a catch **17**



EAT

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OPIOID ABUSE RISING

PRESCRIPTION PAINKILLERS CAN SERVE AS GATEWAY TO HEROIN ADDICTION

By Leonor Vivanco | REDEYE

The stats are staggering and seemingly spiraling out of control.

There were an estimated 183,000 drug-related deaths worldwide in 2012, and opioid overdoses, including heroin and non-medical use of prescription pills, were the largest category, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime 2014 World Drug Report.

More than half of more than 43,000 drug overdose deaths nationwide in 2013 were related to prescription drugs, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The number of fatal heroin-related overdoses has nearly quadrupled in the U.S. from 2002 to 2013 with 8,200 deaths in 2013.

Addiction to prescription opioid painkillers such as Vicodin and OxyContin is the strongest risk factor for heroin addiction, a problem particularly plaguing the Chicago area.

The Chicago area ranks first compared with other major U.S. cities for heroin-related emergency room visits and arrestees who tested positive for opiates and who self-reported using heroin more times per month (average of 26.8 days), a recent report by the Illinois Consortium on Drug Policy at Roosevelt University said.

Another mind-blowing stat: 20. That's how many people recovering heroin addict Steven Lunardi Jr. of Mundelein has personally known—including his best friend—who died because of drugs, mainly heroin.

The International Overdose Awareness Day on Aug. 31 is a global event focused on raising awareness of drug-related deaths, remembering the lives lost to overdoses and advocating for better treatment and recovery options. Survivors, organizations and lawmakers will hold a two-hour downtown Chicago rally at the Federal Plaza calling on the federal government for help in ending the epidemic of opioid addiction and overdose deaths and training people on how to administer naloxone, which can reverse the effects of opioid poisonings, furthering the message that an overdose death is preventable.

"Opioid painkillers are the gateway drugs to heroin. If we can nip the addiction to opioids in the bud, we can keep people from moving from opioids to heroin," said Deborah Hersman, president and CEO of the National Safety Council, a suburban Itasca-based nonprofit



Felicia Miceli (center) holds a photo of her son Louie during a candlelight vigil marking International Overdose Awareness Day in 2012. TRIBUNE FILE

Rauner dumps anti-heroin treatment measure

Gov. Rauner this week sought to rewrite a wide-ranging measure aimed at curbing heroin use, eliminating a requirement that the state's Medicaid health care program for the poor pay for medication and therapy programs to treat addiction.

The Republican governor said the state can't afford the extra cost while "facing unprecedented fiscal difficulties." Supporters of the original legislation argued that the governor's change creates an unfair system in which those who can afford insurance get

help for their addiction while low-income patients end up in an emergency room or a courtroom.

Sponsoring Rep. Lou Lang (D-Skokie) said it was too early to say if he will ask lawmakers to override Rauner's changes.

"There is a whole swath of people out there who need health care from the state who have drug addictions," Lang said. "The governor is taking the position that we can't afford to save these lives."

—CHICAGO TRIBUNE

organization sponsoring the rally.

The transition from narcotic painkillers to heroin is an easy one to make, she said. People might not realize just how dangerous and addictive the painkillers can be because they are prescribed by a doctor, she said.

Some people turn to heroin when painkillers run out or because it's cheaper and more accessible. People who are addicted to prescription opioid painkillers are 40 times more likely to be addicted to heroin, the CDC said.

Heroin use has more than doubled among young adults ages 18 to 25 in the past decade.

Lunardi was a high school freshman when

he started drinking and smoking marijuana. He progressed to using prescription pills two years later and tried heroin for the first time at age 18.

For Lunardi, now 27, heroin has been his biggest battle. He's had stints of sobriety, relapsed and eventually went to rehab 10 times. When he got arrested, he said, his father, a lawyer, bailed him out. He struggled to stay clean.

At his worst, he said, he spent a couple hundred dollars daily for 20 to 28 bags of heroin over a two-week period. He sold his belongings and turned into something of a recluse.

"This drug just really takes your soul," Lunardi said. "You get me on that drug, I'm stealing

ADDICTION
A YEARLONG EXPLORATION OF DEPENDENCY
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from you. You can't even be around me. I look scary. It changed who I was so much. It really takes away, most of all, the person you are."

He finally shook off the addiction by working the 12-step program combined with taking a monthly injection of Vivitrol to block the effects of opioids.

He's now been in recovery for more than three years and holding down a job while attending school full time.

The heroin-related overdose death of Chelsea Laliberte's younger brother Alex was shocking. Alex died at age 20 in suburban Buffalo Grove in 2008. Alex used marijuana and over time experimented with other drugs, including prescription pills, she said.

"He was an athlete. You would not suspect he'd be somebody to get into this," Laliberte said. "He was a really good kid. It was pretty baffling as to why he would try heroin."

Her nonprofit organization, Live4Lali, created in memory of Alex, works on raising awareness of substance use and advocating for access to treatment, offers naloxone training and hosts recovery and support groups for those impacted by drugs.

As executive director, she questioned the plan of attack to combat overdoses. She said there doesn't seem to be a comprehensive long-term strategy at the federal level to address what she considers to be a public health issue.

The federal government sent mixed messages, she said, when this month the Food and Drug Administration approved the use of OxyContin for children 11 to 16 and the White House allocated \$2.5 million from antidrug programs to target heroin abuse on the East Coast.

"We're not expecting this to plateau," Laliberte said.

Over a six-year period, the number of people in the U.S. ages 12 and older who reported past-year heroin use nearly doubled from 314,000 in 2007 to 681,000 in 2013. About 169,000 individuals reported in 2013 using heroin for the first time within the past year.

"Some people are simply going to want to put their heads in the sand. There are other people who are going to really make sure they are aware," Laliberte said. "But the biggest thing ends up being, what can you do? The best way people can help is to talk about it and join forces with a cause doing a lot of this work."

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the chatter JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Advice for everyone in a fantasy football relationship



Soxman

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It's that time of year again, when millions of wives and some husbands lose their spouses to a torrid, whirlwind affair.

Think you might be a victim? Ask yourself these questions:

- » Is your spouse spending countless hours on Internet
- » searches using keywords such as "fantasy busts," "fantasy studs" or the self-implicating "can't-miss tight ends"?
- » Do they frequently check their phones, especially on Sundays, acting nervous, agitated or jealous when they learn someone else has scored?
- » Have you caught them talking dirty online with complete strangers threatening to take them to school or to spank them raw?

If you answered yes to any of these, chances are your significant other has registered on one or more of "those sites," and yes, they are having an affair. Don't let your heart shatter yet or start looking up divorce attorneys.

This affair is far from that of the Ashley Madison variety, although it does involve fantasy and some role-playing. This affair, of course, is with fantasy football.

Whether you are the jilted lover or the one entangled in this messy affair, know you are not alone. According to Forbes, more than 33 million people play fantasy football each

year. For significant others, the good news is that the affair lasts only about 17 weeks, often less, and in most cases ends in disappointment and the second-guessing of choices made.

Also consider this key fact: Most fantasy football players are not actually cheaters. Doing so is usually forbidden.

If you still fear that your relationship or disdain for those who play games can't survive without counseling or that your fantasy football obsession is out of control, consider RedEye your intervention specialist. I'm your

Dr. Phil. Who better to offer expert advice on anything fantasy than a person who lives his life in one?

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the one you love most, like that top-rated quarterback who never shows you anything in return. Or that running back who fumbles everything, violating that trust you worked so hard to build.

No fantasy rock will be left unturned. Don't let the whole baseball persona get to you, either. I've got my balls in order, fully inflated. The "doctor" is in.

Next week: The art of naming your team and developing a draft strategy.

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news

Where to find Spike

All eyes are on Spike, in the Semitropical Greenhouse at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Bloom is expected within the next couple of days.



TRIBUNE GRAPHICS

What's that smell?

Chicago Botanic Garden's corpse flower is about to bloom

Chicago Tribune Graphics

What's taller than a basketball player, unfurls a maroon leaf and reeks of death when it blooms?

It's Spike, the first-ever titan arum, nicknamed the corpse flower, to bloom at the Chicago Botanic Garden. The plant has been on view to the public in the garden's Semitropical Greenhouse since Aug. 6. Spike's bloom could happen at any time—and you can see it. Here's what you need to know.

What is it?

It's big: The titan arum's flower structure can grow up to 8 feet tall. In an earlier phase, the plant sprouts 15-foot-tall leaves that look like a small tree. It also has a massive, bulb-like structure underground, larger than a bowling ball.

It's finicky: The titan arum doesn't flower often, in the wild or in captivity, hence the bloom watch in Chicago and other places around the country that have grown them. The plant takes its time to grow before blooming—often 10 years or longer. Spike and eight other titan arums have been tended to by Chicago Botanic Garden staff since 2003, each grown from a seedling. In Spike's case, that seedling came from the University of California, Berkeley.

It smells: Like other plants, the titan arum uses scent to attract pollinators when it's ready to reproduce. Unlike other plants, Spike will blast out a stench in one big, hourslong burst. The stench is meant to attract carrion beetles and flesh flies that are the plant's natural

pollinators, not to repulse humans. Flowering usually starts in the afternoon, with the stench becoming overpowering at night. By morning, the odor starts to dissipate.

Where it's from: The titan arum is native to rainforests on the island of Sumatra, in the Indonesian archipelago.

When will it bloom? Here are 3 signs.

Leaves peel away: Two protective leaves, known as bracts, shrivel up and fall off the plant. This usually happens about one day prior to blooming.

Maroon color revealed: The spathe, which was tightly wound around the spadix, loosens its grip and starts to open.

How long a bloom? These plants generally bloom for 24 to 36 hours. The bloom usually peaks at night because that's when its pollinators, carrion beetles and flesh flies, are active. Garden staff plan to pollinate Spike by hand using pollen provided by The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens in San Marino, Calif., and Denver Botanic Gardens, which just experienced a bloom from its own corpse flower named Stinky.

Want to see and smell? Here's how.

Chicago Botanic Gardens: Located at 1000 Lake Cook Road in Glencoe.

Where in gardens: Spike is on display in the Semitropical Greenhouse, which is in the row of greenhouses connected to the Regenstein Center.

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sports

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Who becomes a pro beach volleyball player on a whim? Ryan Doherty

By Chris Sosa | REDEYE

Depending on the context, to say Ryan Doherty is “just a volleyball player” could be an insult.

But in the 31-year-old professional athlete’s case, it’s music to his ears because of what it took to reach the pinnacle of his current sport.

Doherty and his teammate, John Mayer (no, not that one), are among the favorites to win this weekend’s AVP Chicago Open at Oak Street Beach. While Doherty has been able to make a living solely by playing volleyball for three years now, his path from Notre Dame pitcher to one of the top athletes in a different sport strains believability.

“My summer job as a kid was helping set up a volleyball tournament,” said the native of Toms River, N.J., a baseball hotbed. “I’ve been around beach volleyball, so I picked it up. I used to pepper [practice] with my brother and stuff like that. But I never actually played until I was about 24 years old.”

After a brief minor league baseball career that ended in 2007, Doherty ping-ponged between odd jobs. So. Many. Odd. Jobs. That is until 2009, when he left South Carolina, where he was living at the time, for California to become a pro beach volleyball player.

Even for an experienced volleyball player, moving to Huntington Beach—America’s de facto beach volleyball capital—would be gutsy. For Doherty, who at the time was losing to virtually every pickup-game opponent in South Carolina, it was beyond insane.

Except to him, of course. It didn’t matter that he had only \$5,000 in his bank account,



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no place to stay and no job prospects.

“It really always was full speed ahead,” he said. “There were some lean years in there where I didn’t have a lot of money. I had to work two jobs to basically get by and not starve to death. But I was having a ton of fun. ... I had very little stress in my life aside from

the fact I didn’t have any money.”

In 2012, he teamed with Casey Patterson, and the two won the first tournament they played together. More impressive, they beat Olympic gold medalists Todd Rogers and Phil Dalhausser in the final.

“That was a pretty good moment of saying,

Ryan Doherty passes the ball during the 2014 AVP St. Petersburg Open in Florida.

‘You know what, I could be pretty good at this game. I think I’m going to keep playing and see where I could take it,’” Doherty said.

“I quit my pizza [delivery] job after that. ... For the past three years I’ve competed on both the domestic and international tours and made enough money doing that to where



Doherty (middle) and teammate John Mayer (right) play in the AVP New York City Open.

those have been my only jobs."

He and Mayer won their first AVP tournament together a few weeks ago in Seattle. The organization, which went bankrupt in 2011, is holding an event in Chicago for the first time since 2009.

"Ryan has improved as much or more than anyone on tour these past three, four years," Mayer said. "He isn't afraid to make mistakes and learn from them. He doesn't fear the big moments."

Doherty has had success in Chicago; he and a different teammate finished first at a Jose Cuervo-sponsored tournament in 2012. If he and Mayer continue to play well, they could qualify to represent the U.S. at the 2016 Olympics.

Of course for Doherty all that is secondary to, well, whatever he's having fun doing. He plans on using a simple formula once he's done competing.

"I find something that I really like and then I trick somebody into paying me to do it," Doherty said, laughing. "So if I can continue that streak, then I'm going to do all right, whatever I find."

CHRIS SOSA IS REDEYE'S SPORTS EDITOR.

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Glad you asked?

Being 7-foot-1, professional beach volleyball player Ryan Doherty naturally gets asked about his height. Which means he probably has a pithy comeback for whatever is thrown his way:

» *How tall are your parents?*

"I usually just answer that one straightforward. My mom's 6-4 and my uncles are 6-8 and 6-10. But if you're trying to be funny, [I could say,] 'Oh you know, 5-4, 5-6, pretty average.'

» *Are you good at basketball?*

"I get asked a lot, 'You should play for the Lakers.' And I always answer, 'How do you know I don't?'"

» *Do your clothes cost extra?*

"I've actually never heard that before. They kind of should, right? I would say 'No,' and if it's a girl I would say, 'Do your skimpy clothes cost less?'"

» *How's the air/weather up there?*

"If [the person is] really rude, you can spit and say it's raining. That's gotta be a pretty gnarly one. Most of the time I'll kind of shoot back a 'Well, we're indoors' comment, and that will put people in their place."

-c.s.



YOU NAME IT, HE DID IT

Most beach volleyball players need a secondary source of income, a reality with which Ryan Doherty is more than familiar.

"There might be 10 guys and 10 girls in the U.S. who are making a living at it where that's their sole occupation," said Doherty, who can count himself in that group. "Everybody else, they're doing what they can to get better and earn money while they do it."

If anyone is interested in the best and worst parts of these odd jobs, Doherty has plenty of input. -c.s.

MINOR-LEAGUE BASEBALL PLAYER

Did it for: 2½ seasons.

Best part: The hours. "You could sleep until noon every day."

Worst part: The bus rides. "DVDs had been out for quite a bit at this point, but we're still on these buses from the 1970s that have three TVs for the entire bus and you can play a VHS tape."

PITCHING INSTRUCTOR

Did it for: 2 years

Best part: "It's a pretty great feeling when you can help somebody and they come in two weeks later talking about how they struck the one kid out and they had the greatest day and they had a huge smile on their face."

Worst part: The parents. "I think youth sports would be substantially better if parents just didn't have anything to do with it, because I don't think they could usually be constructive and realistic about what they want out of their kids."

FREELANCE TRAVEL WRITER

Did it for: 1 article for Dig magazine. "I wrote about a trip to the Hague."

Best part: "I figured out that I like writing. I think that's a real interesting way to see if you can be funny while not having a conversation with anyone else."

Worst part: "Them editing it. I would say something that I think is hilarious and they'd say, 'There's no way we can write that in our magazine.'"

UNDERWEAR MODEL

Did it for: 1 gig. "It was for Dig magazine. Their only stipulation was you can't wear board shorts while you do it. So I go to a woman that I know who runs a company called Wood Underwear. I said, 'If I wore just your underwear on the back cover of the magazine, what would that be worth to you?' And she said, 'I'll give you a thousand bucks if you can get me in there.'"

Best part: "I was committed to doing it well before she named the price ... I just wanted to be able to say that I was a professional underwear model."

Worst part: "I still think it's hilarious, but I think some people in my family might not be as proud of it as I am."

T-SHIRT STORE CLERK

Did it for: About a year.

Best part: "I created my own bar code. I made one of the products the 'big guy tax'; it was 50 cents. I used to put a little bar code on my shirt, and whenever anybody at the register would ask me how tall I was, I would ring it up and all of the sudden it would say 'big guy tax,' and I would say, 'Well, you owe me 50 cents because you asked me how tall I was.' Everybody thought it was funny ... then I'd take it off [their bill]."

Worst part: "I would say the worst part is people would come into a retail store that closes at 9 [p.m.] at 8:55 and then browse. That's the rudest thing I've ever seen."

PIZZA DELIVERY GUY

Did it for: 3 years in Seal Beach, Calif.

Best part: The electric delivery bike. "I used to take that bike way too far. I'm pretty sure I took it on the Pacific Coast Highway a few times, which is not safe or legal, I'm guessing."

Worst part: "People acting like it was the biggest deal in the world if their pizza order wasn't perfect."

BEACHY

To all volleyball players: Chicago apologizes for the crappy weather this weekend.



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@michellelopez
Mash designer/
digital editor



Katie Gibson
@kgibbles
WGN producer



Soxman
@thesoxman72
Caped Sox crusader



Clark Jones
@theelckjones
Stand-up comic



Akeem Lawanson
@geekheavy
RedEye online producer

1	No beach volleyball tournament in Chicago would be complete without ...	... a drunken crowd at Castaways.	... beers, boobs and buns. Hot dog buns, you guys. Come on.	... snow and a polar bear plunge. Pizza, too, because this is Chicago.	... sand, swimsuits and covert photos from creepers.	... Nelly summer jams.
2	How will the Cubs cope while Jorge Soler and Jason Motte are hurt?	Eh, Rizzo and Arrieta are both healthy—they'll be fine.	I think they're coping just fine.	Motte wasn't exactly lights out, and Bryant and Rizzo are electric. No "Soler" power needed.	It's been 107 years, we've got coping down to a science.	By crying like the big babies they are into their catcher's mitt.
3	Calling out a heckler from a track and field medals podium is ...	... a track and field question? Man, football season needs to start already.	... totally OK when it's your mom being heckled. Who heckles a mom?!	... gold, pure gold. Or perhaps silver or bronze, depending on where you placed.	... how they SHOULD handle all dopers.	... like punching your friend in the gut after a touchdown in "Madden 2016." Ya don't do it.
4	Convince the Bears to sign Randy Moss.	You guys have no wide receiver depth! Might as well sign T.O. And Ochocinco, too.	I ... no.	Tom Brady throwing you passes led to a career year. Imagine the possibilities with Jay Cutler!	He'll be the easiest to pay "straight cash, homey."	Hey dweebs, sign this man! Was that convincing enough? *sigh*
5	If you had a "fall guy" in your crew, what secrets would that person be holding over you?	I'm not at liberty to say, but they all involve tacos.	I have too many secrets for a fall guy.	I wear socks on my head, man. I have no dirty laundry.	Only what means the most to me, my HBO Go and Hulu passwords.	Nice try, but I'm not falling for THAT one ... again.

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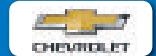
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Skate legend out to shatter stereotypes in documentary

By Chris Sosa | REDEYE

Paul Rodriguez never wastes a perfect setup.

The skateboarding superstar brushes off the notion that athletes in his sport are simply out to make police and property owners angry.

"That just happens to be the nature of ... just driving around and seeing something and trying to skate it," the 30-year-old said. "So I think we get kind of a rap from that, but it's not like a 'Yeah, who cares what they say, let's just get it.' It's more like, 'I just can't help but be compelled to skate these stairs right here.'

Breaking down misconceptions is one of the goals Rodriguez tackled while starring in the documentary "We Are Blood," which premieres in Chicago at 8:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Patio Theater.

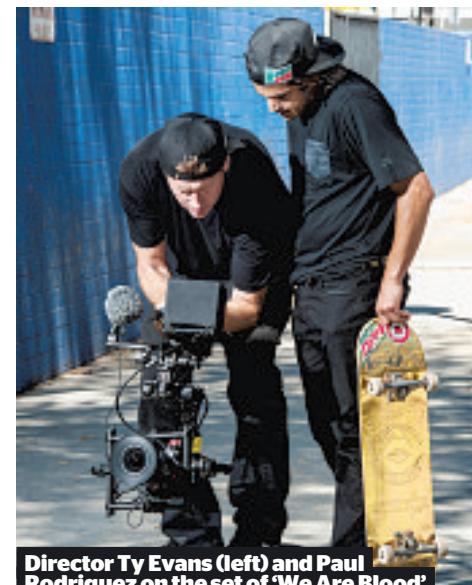
RedEye caught up with one of the biggest stars in the sport to talk about the connection skateboarders have, the aches and pains of failing to land a trick and sleeping in smelly RVs.

What stories will emerge when people see this movie?

Just the different walks of life and types of characters there are in skateboarding. I think people who don't skate, there's a general stereotype of when you think of a skateboarder you think of a certain type of individual. But I think once they see how it's a worldwide phenomenon and meet these people and the travels that we have, that's going to be shattered.

What did you learn about yourself from having a camera follow you around for a year?

If I'm being honest with myself, I definitely learned that I'm a bit spoiled being in the game for so long and being blessed with great sponsors who sent me around the world first class, beautiful hotels. This movie was definitely not that. Being crammed together



Director Ty Evans (left) and Paul Rodriguez on the set of 'We Are Blood'

in an RV for weeks at a time, sometimes just camping at local campgrounds just off the highway or just kind of whatever hotels. It really humbled me because I would look at other kids and it was the first trip they had ever gone on for skateboarding, and everything to them is amazing.

How much of your legacy is tied to being a Mexican-American athlete, especially one with his own Nike shoe?

It's cool that I'm Mexican-American and I've been able to get a sneaker from a company like Nike with my name on it and be somewhat next to these names that are also associated with Nike. That's a real cool thing and for kids out there who feel like for whatever reason, their economic background, the color of their skin or whatever, who might think that those types of things are holding them back. I'm excited to help inspire them to show them like hey, none of that stuff actually matters. **CHRIS SOSA IS REDEYE'S SPORTS EDITOR.**
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Wednesday's must-see event in sports

Cubs at San Francisco | 9:15 p.m. CSN

Former White Sox pitcher Jake Peavy on the mound for the Giants. Though we're not sure the Sox necessarily regretted letting him go.

ALSO ON TAP

» White Sox vs. Boston, 7:10 p.m. My50 (Chris Sale pitching alert!)

WHO WON?

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comedy

The cast of 'The Carmichael Show'



By Sean Ely | REDEYE

David Alan Grier's career is astonishing, to be quite honest. From an adaptation of "Star Wars" on National Public Radio to playing Jackie Robinson on Broadway, to Best Actor accolades at the Venice Film Festival to exploding on the TV screen with "In Living Color," it was obvious this Detroit-born personality wouldn't be leaving the spotlight anytime soon.

And since the mid-1980s, Grier has continued to crank his career into overdrive, racking up nearly 100 actor credits—as recorded on IMDB—all while making a living as a boisterous stand-up comedian.

Whether you've followed his rise to stardom or not, when you see Grier's face on any screen, you recognize him immediately.

"But something nobody recognizes me from? A Fruit of the Loom commercial from the early '80s when I played the grapes part of the logo," the now 59-year-old Grier said.

"And I got the job because the old [actor who played the] grapes got fired! We wore these costumes in the Catskill Mountains for like three or four commercials. The campaign was quickly squashed, but that footage exists somewhere. It was fun though because every quarter, you'd get a paycheck for some random amount of money, like \$7,500 or something. You never knew when it was coming."

Grier's newest venture? Playing Joe on the upcoming NBC sitcom "The Carmichael Show," starring highly touted stand-up comedian Jerrod Carmichael. Grier plays Carmichael's heavily opinionated father alongside Loretta Devine, who plays his wife of more than 30 years in the show.

The sitcom debuts with back-to-back episodes at 8 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

"This sitcom feels like the real world and not a storyline that would take place on another planet entirely, like so many sitcoms do," said Grier, who already filmed six episodes. "Our show talks about the politics of the day in a way people aren't doing anymore. And scenes are longer with more elongated conversations within them. It's really refreshing to do something different."

I took the time to chat with Grier about his new show and the state that comedy currently sits in.

I talked to Jerrod [Carmichael] last year before his Spike Lee-directed HBO special "Love at the Store" debuted and was blown away by how immediately likable and humble he was. Were you a fan of his before you started working on "The Carmichael Show"?

Jerrod is a troubled young man, with a lot of—[Breaks into laughter.]

My heart stopped beating for a second.

[Still laughing.] Right? No, he's great. I met him in 2010, or maybe even earlier than that, and just instantly became a fan of [his]. I saw him do a spot in Montreal and I loved his vibe, his voice, his smarts. He attacks issues from outside of the obvious position. But when I got a script for this show, it didn't come from him; it came from my people. And I liked it. And I went in for the audition and saw Loretta [Devine] coming out, who immediately said, "They're gonna like you!" And eventually we both got cast in the show. When you're working with people half your age, it's nice to have her around, who I've known and worked with for 30 years myself.

The whole cast is black, which is something you don't see a lot of right now. I feel like putting a mix of races in a sitcom is very common in 2015.

Yeah. I realized that later on, too, and thought to myself, "That shouldn't be a thing. Oh, I wonder if [the producers] will try to shoehorn cast members of different races into it eventually?" But right now it's all about the relationships between the characters. Things might eventually evolve and change, but right now? I feel really taken care of. I've been in shows before where I don't trust my writers or the showrunner or the network. Sometimes there's an anxiety I don't like, where I feel like they're pushing my character and what they want him to say ... shutting my voice down in a sense. But I do not feel that here [with "The Carmichael Show"].

That's great it's worked so well with everyone so far. I'm going to ask something a little off topic, but I think you'll agree that my wonderment is warranted.

OK, go for it.

Why the hell isn't "Crank Yankers" still a show?

[Laughs.] Ya know, I really think they could do it again. But the thing is, you can only crank call people from a couple states and record it legally, so we were always filming in Arizona, in places without caller ID. But honestly, by the end of the show, I remember calling people up and they knew it was me. They knew the voices. They had to get new people.

Wow, I never thought of that. All the unaired calls have to be funnier than the aired ones.

They were. People recognized us by the third season, and then we all just started feeling really bad. We'd be harassing old people and [bleep]. I talked to one old Southern redneck for over an hour who wanted to combine my rap character's hip-hop sound with his square dancing business. He was talking about recording an album and going on tour [with me]. It was hysterical.



David Alan Grier

sparked him to say things like, "I love you brush it off! Makes you even deadlier! They'll never see it coming." [Laughs.]

Where do you think the general consensus lands with the live sketch show in 2015?

Bringing back "In Living Color" or something is tough because of the black Twitter outrage about everything. Everyone approaching jokes with a "How dare you!" attitude. People are always trolling [on social media], like, for example, going way back in Trevor Noah's Twitter feed. You look at any comedian who's between 25 and 30 and you'll have trolls going years back to see what they said when they were 19. I don't want to say it's gotten out of hand, but come on. There is a process to comedy; it's a place for experimentation when you need to throw everything up against the wall and see what sticks, what works, what doesn't and so on.

Yeah, everyone is always reviewing everything that anyone says about anything.

Right! I don't know who these [bleep]ers are saying [bleep] like, "This is what Amy Schumer should have said," or "This is how Jon Stewart should have ended his show" or "This is how Caitlyn Jenner should have announced it." Back during "In Living Color," people had to physically write a letter. Just the physical energy it took to get paper and a pen and spend time writing? That took 70 percent of the outrage away by the time they went to send it.

[Laughs.] Yeah, it's pathetic. The market is so damn saturated and every website wants clicks and page views and they don't care how they get them as long as they roll in.

My most hated phrase I see is headlines that read, "Click on this video and you'll never believe what happens next ..."

Don't even get me [bleep]ing started on that.

And then it's a video of a donkey in tap shoes singing alongside his Gulf War veteran owner while he's crying. Like, what the hell? That's not news. And it's over and over again. I'm done with it, man.

Let's end on a lighter note. True or false: You received eight Oscar nominations for your role as Carl Bentley in "Jumanji"?

[Laughs.]

Have you looked at board games differently since 1995?

Who plays a board game? It's all computer games and games on the phone now. I did show my daughter "Jumanji" in the past and I realized it was right at that time where half of the CGI is good and the other half you're like, "Who the [bleep] did this?" But at the time, that was the best they could do.

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“ People are always trolling [on social media], like, for example, going way back in Trevor Noah's Twitter feed. ... I don't want to say it's gotten out of hand, but come on. There is a process to comedy; it's a place for experimentation when you need to throw everything up against the wall and see what sticks, what works, what doesn't and so on. —David Alan Grier

But I have to ask, do you still have your—
Danny puppet? Yes. I sure do. A producer sent it to me. I was in my attic looking for a suitcase recently and I saw him still up there, staring at me like a dead body.

list thing for me later in life. So around 1992, leading up to [another season] of "In Living Color" I earned it. It was me and a bunch of 15-year-olds.

You're joking.

I'm not kidding you. It's all 15-year-old kids and lunatic, nut job, ex-military crazy people. I even did a couple tournaments, I recently found the pictures and my little trophies.

You've done it all, David.

There was a guy that hung out with Eddie Murphy all the time that was driving me around years ago who kept calling me a "deadly assassin" because he heard I had my black belt and I would deny it being a big deal and that just further enticed him and

He's just lying on the floor up there?
No! He's in a see-through airtight container.

OK, good.

Yeah, in 70 years, it'll be worth so much.
[Laughs.]

Something that intrigues me about you is that I heard a rumor you have your black belt in taekwondo?

I do. I took martial arts in junior high and never got my black belt, so it was a bucket



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UPPING YOUR CHICAGO RESTAURANT CRED ONE BITE AT A TIME

By Michael Nagrant | FOR REDEYE

I don't have the luxury of obsessing over a single restaurant. My job requires that I eat in as many new restaurants as fast as I can. But hazards be damned! I'm obsessed with Brown Bag Seafood Co. in the Loop. This column is usually reserved for Chicago institutions, places run for three generations by the same family, places that if you haven't eaten in you're not allowed to call yourself a Chicagoan—not places that have been open for less than a year and a half.

But the first week I discovered Brown Bag near my office, I ate there three times. I've eaten there six times in the past month. It's a fast-casual restaurant that delivers on what it promises, serving pristine fresh seafood quickly, affordably and by employees who are friendly and accommodating.

Also interesting about Brown Bag is how it seems like it's poised for major franchising, but also succeeds in feeling like a cozy one-off neighborhood spot. This, however, makes sense given that owner Donna Lee started her career in one-off local restaurants such as Evanston's Blind Faith Cafe and recently defunct Quince, but also was a general manager for a Noodles & Company franchise at Old Orchard

Mall in Skokie. Sure, there's netting, rustic pendant lamps and a door with a porthole, but the dining room at Brown Bag feels less like Long John Silver's and more like you've walked into a Martha Stewart Living spread on the wonders of Nantucket-chic design.

Serving reasonably priced food fast might be easy with cheap burritos, burgers or hot dogs, but we're talking about flaky, lemony Lake Superior white fish (\$9.99) on artisan-style baguettes, aka "the subbie" (Lee has worked with her bread baker to develop three versions of the roll since they opened in search of the optimal fish-to-crackling bun ratio). Also on deck: blackened fish of the day on a bed of quinoa, or those same spicy caramelized hunks of fish or fried plump shrimp mounded high with crisp slaw, pickled red onion, fiery jalapeño slivers and an herbed crema made in-house from greek yogurt, mayo and lime juice all swaddled in a pretty decent flour tortilla (\$8.99-\$11.99).

"When we were opening, people asked me, 'Aren't you worried you can't compete with the [nearby] Mariano's?'" Lee said. "I'm not competing with the grocery buffet. I'm serving the same fish you get at Gibson's for \$20-plus for \$12 a plate."

Brown Bag Seafood Co. also serves the occasional flaky lobster pot pie (\$14), which clocks in as the priciest menu item besides the weekend-only lobster roll (\$22). All of the seafood served is sustainable (as determined by the Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch list), most of the items are less than \$10 and the seafood's delivered twice a day to guarantee freshness. "When I hear about restaurants who use frozen product or refreeze leftover stuff, it just makes me upset," Lee said. "We have a little freezer space here, but it's mostly dedicated to storing our tater tots."

Indeed, the tots are frozen, but they're deep-fried to order and served piping hot in tiny paper coffee cups topped with your choice of cheddar cheese and freshly ground pepper, buffalo sauce and blue cheese or wisps of parmesan and truffle oil.

Despite that small decadence, Brown Bag Seafood Co.'s most popular item is their spinach, quinoa and wild rice blend "power box" topped with a healthy broiled or blackened fillet of fish (\$6.99-\$11.99 depending on protein option). "I bought a \$10,000 breading machine and thought people were going to go crazy for the fried stuff, but the power box has been the most popular," Lee said. "I

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Looks like: A Hamptons-esque seaside retreat

Sounds like: A buzzing well-fed crowd

Smells like: Fried shrimp

didn't realize how popular the healthy aspect of this restaurant would be."

The soup of the day might be broccoli cheddar (\$4) studded not with tiny green bits but with lovely al dente whole florets dripping with white cheddar rich broth. There are fresh-baked cookies at the door for \$1.50 that you don't order at the counter but instead pay on the "honor system" by stuffing the cash in a box near the cloche domes that hold the tantalizing desserts.

By now, readers know I'm a sauce geek, and there's a dip bar featuring a custard-thick, lemony-spritzed herbed tartar sauce and something called "rickshaw," a glorious tomato-based chutney I adore. If you do anything, make sure you order tots just so you have something to sop this stuff up with.

MICHAEL NAGRANT IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.
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movies

★★★★★
NO ESCAPE
R



Owen Wilson and Lake Bell in 'No Escape'

No thought went into improbable 'No Escape'



FAST PAISED

Matt Pais

» mpais@redeyechicago.com
» [@mattpais](https://twitter.com/mattpais)

To save his kids from homicidal maniacs, Jack (Owen Wilson!) throws each of his daughters from the roof of one building into the arms of his wife, Annie (Lake Bell, unfortunately for her), on the roof of a building that has to be 10 feet away. Again: This man, a relatively scrawny

engineer with no presumed experience with shot put or any related sport, throws his daughters across a 10-foot gap. In slow motion.

Because the brutal, improbable "No Escape," a barely written action-thriller about an American family hunted by faceless dudes with machetes in a never-identified Southeast Asian country—if your movie is set in a continent with countries, which is every movie pending a sudden influx of Antarctica-based office comedies, don't act like it doesn't matter where events are happening—is another chance for an unlucky traveler to become Superdad. It's not really like "Taken," though, despite Owen Wilson and Liam Neeson having the same number of letters in their names (Coincidence? Yes.) and Pierce Brosnan, who sometimes seems like the more refined Liam Neeson of a

slightly goofier parallel universe, co-starring as a friendly Englishman who oddly neglects to warn this family away from their new home. (He also says, before going to a strip club, "Perhaps I should change into my sweatpants, let 'em know I mean business.") "No Escape," not to be confused with the 1994 thriller of the same name in which Ray Liotta defended himself against murderous prisoners on an island, just exploits a setting that isn't the U.S. without much regard for anyone else's life, awkwardly trying to criticize Western intrusions in the Far East while simultaneously justifying the rampage of seemingly inhuman killers and ignoring them entirely, only concerned with the impact on the white people.

Director John Erick Dowdle (who wrote the script with his brother, Drew) provides danger but not suspense and lots of gunfire but little action with technique that could be praised as "competent." All we learn about the location is that it's a very short canoe ride from Vietnam, and the locals' English-speaking capabilities exist randomly, when needed in the story.

It's not the case with a shop owner when Jack goes for a newspaper and finds himself right in the middle of an impending, deadly clash between protesters and police, which maybe he'd have known was scheduled there if the USA Today he buys wasn't three days old. Or if he had done four seconds of research about the place where he was moving.

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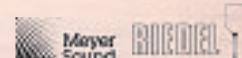
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music

The Weeknd at Lollapalooza 2015
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* **Mitski, Palehound**,
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**ON SALE NOON
WEDNESDAY**

* **The World Is A
Beautiful Place And I
Am No Longer Afraid
To Die, Foxing**, Satur-
day, Nov. 7 (\$16-\$19, all
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NOON THURSDAY**

Everclear,
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10 A.M. FRIDAY**

Al Di Meola,
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18+) at Park West.

* **Beat Connection**,
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17+) at Subterranean.

The Chainsmokers,
Friday, Nov. 13 (\$25-
\$35, all ages) at the
Aragon Ballroom.

* **Deerhunter**,
Sunday, Dec. 13
(\$22-\$240, 17+)
at Thalia Hall.

* **Drive-By Truckers**,
Friday, Nov. 13,
Saturday, Nov. 14
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at Thalia Hall.

Houndmouth, Friday,
Nov. 27, Saturday,
Nov. 28, (\$22-\$306, all
ages) at Thalia Hall.

Il Volo, Friday, Feb. 26
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Chicago Theatre.

Moon Taxi, Sunday,
Nov. 22 (\$21-\$342, all
ages) at Thalia Hall.

Reptar, Sunday,
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That's where N.W.A.'s song "Straight Outta Compton" is sitting on the Billboard Hot 100, according to [vulture.com](#). It's the first time in the group's history that they have a Top 40 hit. N.W.A.'s album "Straight Outta Compton" was the week's No. 4 best-selling album, the highest the album has ever charted.

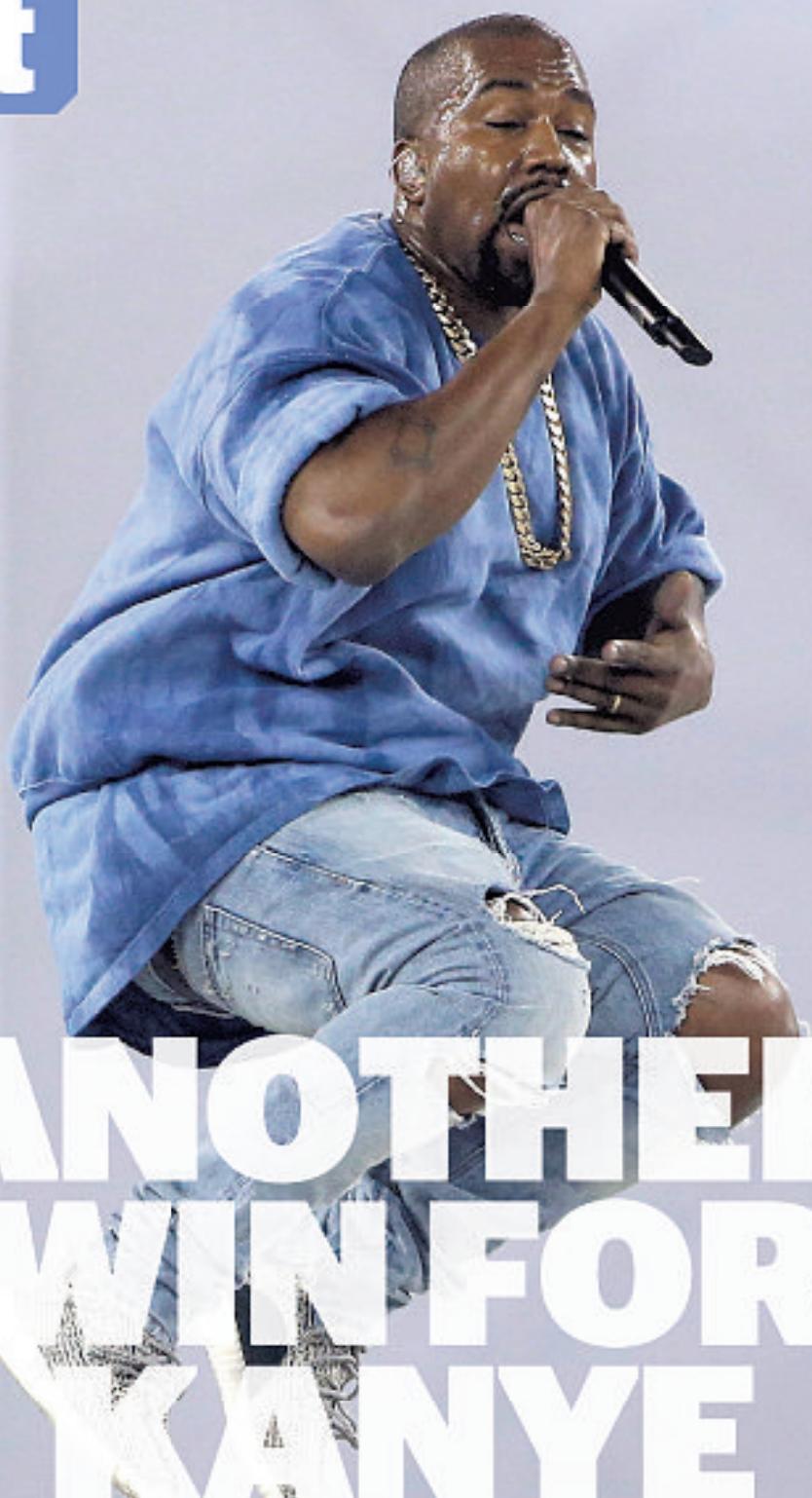
The next Bachelor is ...

ABC made it official on Monday that former "Bachelorette" contestant Ben Higgins will be the next Bachelor, according to [ew.com](#). The announcement came during ABC's "After Paradise." According to [ew.com](#), Higgins said, "People like me don't get opportunities like this, and I never would have thought that this opportunity would be something that I could have and I'm excited. Everything leading up to this has just been incredible."



Baby Schmidt

"New Girl" actor Max Greenfield and his wife, Tess Sanchez, welcomed a son—adorably named Ozzie James—on Monday, according to [ew.com](#). This is the couple's second child.



MTV announced Tuesday via Instagram that **Kanye West** will receive the Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award, the highest honor of its Video Music Awards, during the show this Sunday, [ew.com](#) reported. "Throughout his career, West has blended musical and visual artistry to powerful effect," MTV said in a statement, according to [ew.com](#). "... He's pushed boundaries and delivered something new with every successive video." The VMAs are set to air at 8 p.m. Sunday.

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THE QUOTE

"To me it's just not as sexy as making what you want with the people you want and not having to operate in fear. No creativity is ever birthed through a canal of fear."

—Actress Lake Bell, to [More](#) magazine, after saying that if she ever campaigned to direct a huge studio picture, it would take her years, and would take away from other projects she wants to make with friends, according to [thr.com](#). Bell currently is set to direct an adaptation of the novel "The Emperor's Children" starring Jeff Bridges.

Love is in the air, probably

Well, maybe love is not lost in Hollywood after all. "Community" actress Alison Brie and Dave Franco are engaged, according to [vulture.com](#). Brie confirmed the news at the premiere of her upcoming movie "Sleeping With Other People," [Vulture](#) reported. The two have been dating since 2012.